Appl. No. 10/041,956 Amdt. dated January 5, 2004 Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended.

The application data sheet (ADS) has been objected to for various errors in the inventor address information. Appropriate correction has been made and a revised ADS is hereby submitted.

Figure 1 has been objected to as not including a legend indicating that the Figure is "prior art." A corrected drawing is hereby submitted, including a legend "prior art."

The specification has been objected to as containing various unconventional symbols. Appropriate correction has been made herein by amendments to the specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 9-15 and the indicated allowability of claims 1-8, subject to overcoming the pending rejection to claim 1 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. In particular, claim 1 was rejected as lacking antecedent basis for "the processor" at line 9. Accordingly, claim 1 has been hereby amended to more particularly point out an aspect of the invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald T. Gray Reg. No. 41,797

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 925-472-5000 Fax: 415-576-0300

GTG:sea 60107869 v1